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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An archery target comprising:
a plurality of ~~one or more~~ target elements arranged in at least one stack, the target elements comprising side edges oriented toward a target face; and
a foam polymeric covering layer encapsulating the stack of ~~extending across at least the side edges of the~~ target elements, the foam polymeric covering layer extending in front of the side edges comprising the target face bonded to at least a portion of the side edges.
2. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 comprising a plurality of target faces.
3. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the polymeric covering layer substantially surrounds the stack of target elements.
4. (Withdrawn)- The archery target of claim 1 wherein the polymeric covering layer substantially surrounds the side edges of the target elements to form a plurality of target faces.
5. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the polymeric covering layer provides a compressive force on the target elements.
6. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a generally uniform thickness relative to the side edges of the target elements along the target face.
7. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a first thickness relative to the side edges of the target elements along a first target face and a second thickness along a second target face.

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8. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a generally variable thickness along the target face relative to the side edges of the target elements.
9. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the side edges of the target elements adjacent to the target face comprise a generally planar configuration.
10. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the side edges of the target elements adjacent to the target face comprise a generally curvilinear configuration.
11. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the stack of target elements comprises two discrete stacks of target elements.
12. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 11 wherein the discrete stacks of target elements comprise one or more different materials and/or different shapes.
13. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the target elements comprise a plurality of generally planar foam target elements.
14. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the side edges comprise reduced profile edges.
15. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the target elements comprise a foam material having a density selected in the range of about 2 pounds per square foot to about 10 pounds per square foot.
16. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a foam material.
17. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a compliant, deformable and resilient polymeric material.

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18. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a reinforcing structure.
19. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a thickness of at least 0.25 inches.
20. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a thickness of at least 1 inch.
21. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer is compatible with the material of the target elements.
22. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a self-healing material.
23. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a molded material.
24. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a homogenous material.
25. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a reinforcing material.
26. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a liquid coating applied to at least the side edges.
27. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises a sheet material bonded to at least the side edges.

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28. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the covering layer comprises one of a foam, a film, a non-woven web, a liquid coating, or a combination thereof.

29. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 1 comprising straps surrounding the stack of target elements.

30. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 wherein the archery target comprises a free standing archery target.

31. (Original) The archery target of claim 1 comprising indicia on at least one target face.

32. (Withdrawn) A three-dimensional archery target comprising a chamber containing the archery target of claim 1.

33. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 32 wherein the chamber comprises first and second generally opposing surfaces adapted to apply a compressive force to the target elements.

34. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 32 comprising one or more displacement mechanisms adapted to apply a compressive force to the archery target.

35. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 32 wherein the chamber comprises at least one surface adapted to mechanically couple with the archery target.

36. (Withdrawn) The archery target of claim 32 wherein the three-dimensional archery target simulates an animal.

37. (Currently Amended) An archery target comprising:
a plurality of one or more planar target elements arranged in at least one stack, the

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stack of planar target elements subject to a compressive force on a major surface thereof, the target elements comprising a plurality of side edges oriented toward a target face; and

a foam polymeric covering layer encapsulating the stack of planar target elements, the foam covering layer extending in front of the side edges to comprise at least the side edges to ~~comprise~~ the target face, the foam polymeric covering layer providing at least a portion of the compressive force on the major surfaces of the target elements.

38. (Currently Amended) A method of making an archery target, comprising the steps of:

arranging a plurality of one or more target elements in a generally stacked configuration, the target elements comprising a plurality of side edge oriented toward a target face;

applying a foam bonding a polymeric covering layer to encapsulate the stack to at least the side edges of the target elements, the foam covering layer extending in front of the side edges to comprise the target face; and

applying a compressive force on the target elements.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38 comprising locating a polymeric covering layer along a plurality of target faces.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising substantially surrounding the stack over target elements with the polymeric covering layer.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising substantially surrounding the side edges of the target elements with the polymeric covering layer and forming a plurality of target faces.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising applying a compressive force on a major surface of the target elements using the polymeric covering layer.

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43. (Original) The method of claim 38 comprising applying the covering layer with a generally uniform thickness relative to the side edges of the target elements along the target face.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising applying the covering layer with a generally variable thickness relative to the side edges of the target elements along the target face.

45. (Original) The method of claim 38 comprising arranging the side edges of the target elements adjacent to the target face in a generally planar configuration.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising arranging the side edges of the target elements adjacent to the target face in a generally curvilinear configuration.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising arranging two discrete stacks of target elements in the archery target.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising arranging a first discrete stack of target elements adjacent to a first target face and arranging a second stack of target elements adjacent a second target face.

49. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein the target elements comprise a plurality of generally planar foam material.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising deforming the side edges of the target elements to create reduced profile side edges.

51. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer comprises a foam material.

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52. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer comprises a compliant, deformable and resilient polymeric material.
53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising locating a reinforcing structure in the covering layer.
54. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer comprises a thickness of at least 0.25 inches.
55. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer comprises a thickness of at least 1 inch.
56. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer is compatible with the material of the target elements.
57. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer comprises a self-healing material.
58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising molding the covering layer onto the side edges.
59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 58 wherein the step of molding includes compressing the target elements.
60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising applying a liquid covering layer to the side edges.
61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising the steps of:
bonding a polymeric sheet material to the side edges; and
sealing any seams on the sheet material.

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62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 wherein the covering layer comprises one of a foam, film, non-woven web, liquid coating, or a combination thereof.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising wrapping the target elements with straps.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 comprising applying heat and/or pressure to the archery target to apply a compressive force on the target elements.

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